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CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for temporarily inactivating a wireless communication device which sends and receives an electromagnetic communication signal, said method comprising enclosing said device in a container and locking said container with a seal which prevents removal of said device from said
5 container, said container comprising a signal shielding layer wherein said signal shielding layer comprises an electrically conductive layer or a microwave absorptive layer, said signal shielding layer being configured to surround said device when said device is enclosed within said container to thereby attenuate said communication signal and render said device inoperable;
10 said seal being adapted so that breakage of said seal to unlock said container can be visually detected.

2. The method of claim 1 which further includes keeping said device spaced apart from signal shielding layer while said device is enclosed within said container.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said device is kept spaced apart from said signal shielding layer by inserting a spacer layer between said container and said device enclosed within the container.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said signal shielding layer is metal.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said metal is laminated or coated onto said container.

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6. The method of claim 1 wherein said container is a heat sealable plastic bag; said signal shielding layer is coated or laminated onto said bag; and said bag is locked by heat sealing a heat sealable portion of said bag whereby said heat seal seals said device in said bag.

7. The method of claim 6 which further includes keeping said device spaced apart from said signal shielding layer while said device is enclosed within said bag.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said device is kept spaced apart from said signal shielding layer by inserting a spacer layer between said bag and the device within the bag.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said signal shielding layer is metal.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said metal is aluminum.

11. The method of claim 6 wherein said device is a cell phone.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein said device is a cell phone.

13. A temporarily inactivated wireless communication device which has been temporarily inactivated by enclosing said device in a container and locking said container with a seal which prevents removal of said device from said container, said container comprising a signal shielding layer wherein said
5 signal shielding layer comprises an electrically conductive layer or a microwave absorptive layer, said signal shielding layer being configured to surround said device enclosed within said container so that said signal shielding

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layer surrounds said device to thereby attenuate said communication signal and render said device temporarily inoperable; said seal being adapted so that
10 breakage of said seal to unlock said container is visually detectable.

14. The temporarily inactivated wireless communication device of claim 13 wherein said container is a heat sealable plastic bag; said signal shielding layer is coated or laminated onto said bag; and said bag is locked by heat sealing a heat sealable portion of said bag whereby said heat seal seals said
5 device in said bag.

15. The temporarily inactivated wireless communication device of claim 14 which further comprises a spacer layer which maintains said device spaced apart from said bag.

16. The temporarily inactivated wireless communication device of claim 15 wherein said device is a cell phone.

17. The temporarily inactivated cell phone of claim 16 wherein said conductive layer is metal.

18. The temporarily inactivated cell phone of claim 17 wherein said metal is aluminum.

19. A method for preventing unauthorized use of a wireless communication device which is brought into a restricted area by an individual which comprises enclosing said wireless communication device in a container; locking said container with a seal which prevents removal of said device from
5 said container; permitting said individual to enter said restricted area with said

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phone locked in said container, said container comprising a signal shielding layer wherein said signal shielding layer comprises an electrically conductive layer or a microwave absorptive layer, said signal shielding layer being configured to surround said device when said device is enclosed within said container so that said signal shielding layer surrounds said device to thereby
10 attenuate said communication signal and render said device inoperable, said seal being adapted so that breakage of said seal to unlock said container can be visually detected; and inspecting said container to detect if the container or if the seal has been broken before the individual leaves the restricted site.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said wireless communication device is a cell phone; said container is a heat sealable plastic bag; said signal shielding layer is coated or laminated onto said bag; and said bag is locked by heat sealing a heat sealable portion of said bag whereby said heat seal seals said
5 device in said bag.

21. A method for temporarily inactivating a wireless communication device which sends and receives an electromagnetic communication signal, said method comprising enclosing said device in a container; said container comprising a signal shielding layer wherein said
5 signal shielding layer comprises an electrically conductive layer or a microwave absorptive layer, said signal shielding layer being configured to surround said device when said device is enclosed within said container to thereby attenuate said communication signal and render said device inoperable.

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22. The method of claim 21 wherein said container is a bag and said device is enclosed within said bag by placing said device in an open end of said bag and then folding over said open end of said bag to thereby close said bag with said device therein.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said container is a bag and said device is enclosed within said bag by placing said device in an open end of said bag and then sealing said open end of said bag.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein an inner portion of said open end of the bag is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive and said bag is sealed with said pressure sensitive adhesive.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said pressure sensitive adhesive is resealable whereby the sealed bag can be opened and resealed.

26. An apparatus for temporarily inactivating a wireless communication device which sends and receives an electromagnetic signal; said apparatus comprising a bag which includes a signal shielding layer as a component thereof, said signal shielding layer comprising an electrically conductive composition or a microwave absorptive composition, said signal shielding layer being configured so that when said device is enclosed within said bag, said signal shielding layer surrounds said device to thereby attenuate said communication signal and render said device inoperable.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein an open end of said bag includes a pressure sensitive adhesive which is configured to seal said open end

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of said bag; said pressure sensitive adhesive being resealable so that said bag can be opened and resealed.

28. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein a portion of said signal shielding layer is transparent to visible light whereby the transparent portion defines a window.

29. The method of claim 1 wherein said electromagnetic radiation is an infrared beam.